



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, in the Multifunction Room C, 700 Lavaca Building, Austin, Texas. Chairman Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 and declared a quorum present.

Attendance: Present were Patti Hansen, Marty Moulthrop, Marjorie Alford, May Schmidt, Jeannette Cook, Vonnys Rice-Gardner, Bill Beare, Nora Jackson, Danny Camacho, Shawn Malone, Bob Perkins, Barry Hutcheson, Bob Ward, Rosemary Morrow, and Teri Flack. Absent were Adrienne Rison-Isom, Margarine Beaman, Nancy Hamilton, and David White.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on April 10, 2013, were corrected and approved on a motion by Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Schmidt.

Report from the Chair: An update on the Barton Springs Mission Marker was provided by Kim McKnight of the City of Austin. She distributed copies of a Barton Springs Pool improvement plan and described how the 1936 Spanish Missions marker is to be moved as part of a larger renovations project. The marker will be more visible and accessible than before. The Texas Historical Commission has indicated its support for this change. Vice-Chairman Schmidt moved that the Travis County Historical Commission go on the record in support of the City's plan for the marker. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hansen and approved.

It was noted that the awards ceremony for the historic essay-poster contest had actually taken place on April 25th, not the 30th as had been discussed last month.

Chairman Ward also reported that the budget for the Williams farmstead grant project required some follow-up and Commissioners Court action to ratify.

Treasurer's Report: No change from last month. The cost for name badges for Commission members is being investigated. Chairman Ward opined that the cost could be met by tapping Travis County funds; Ms. Hansen and Ms. Jackson discussed how the name badges order will be placed. Mr. Hutcheson raised the question: Will the name badges vendor perform for a purchase order, or will they require a check?

Research Committee: Chairman Ward reported that Ms. Flack will take over the research committee. There was discussion about a newspaper article regarding the history of Bee Caves and possible marker ideas. The budget estimate per marker is \$1,200.

Markers Committee: Chairman Ward noted the absence of David White and said that there were no additional updates on markers. There was discussion of marker maintenance being performed by jail inmates or offenders sentenced to community service.

Projects Committee: Regarding the documentation of history of the Travis County Historical Commission itself, Mr. Beare reported that he's working on the most recent history and is in contact with Judge Biscoe's office.

Mr. Hutcheson said that work on the by-laws is continuing and proposed revisions might be ready for review in a week or so.

Vonnys Rice-Gardner described the awards ceremony for the historic essay-poster contest April 25th as "exemplary." Just under 20 students were recognized. 40 to 50 students start the class, but those that lack current immunizations cannot complete it. Each student produced two posters and two essays. Videos and posters from the contest were circulated. Ms. Rice-Gardner used the word "cumbersome" to describe the current process for judging the entries and alternatives were discussed, including more use of online resources. Ms. Morrow proposed taking students who lack transportation to locations of historic interest. Ms. Hansen noted the popularity of free Austin Convention and Visitors' Bureau walking tours. Ms. Jackson plans to ask Budget Analyst Aerin Toussaint about applying Travis County Historical Commission resources to this student contest program.

Chairman Ward said that with respect to the African-American Schools project, Ms. Beaman will meet with Bob Ward and Danny Camacho decide on the next steps necessary to make progress.

There was no report on public relations activity. Ms. Schmidt got more bookmarks printed, and Ms. Rice-Gardner requested some for the ACC libraries. A brief discussion of producing a County flag included Mr. Hutcheson's suggestion that a budget request be submitted to Commissioners Court. Chairman Ward noted that there was no new word on the southeast Travis County survey.

Correspondence and Other Business: Announcements regarding Inherit Austin and Travis County Parks Division Director Charles Bergh working on the Moore's Crossing Bridge program were made by Chairman Ward, who also said that Webberville land research could involve a historical component to parks displays, field school, and surveys. Ms. Schmidt suggested contacting Glen Osborne. Chairman Ward plans to facilitate Travis County Historical Commission participation in these initiatives. He noted that the Mt. Bonnell case went back to court today, and that letters had been received regarding 1603 Canterbury and other issues. Ms. Schmidt recapped the tour of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's facilities and promised to schedule another tour. Mr. Ward observed that tours of the Travis County Archives are also available. Ms. Hansen noted that the Medallion magazine from the Texas Historical Commission is available for free.

There being no additional comments by Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Malone
Secretary